



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HISTORIC REENACTORS
2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry, Co. A;
1st Vermont Cavalry, Co. K;
Vermont Brigade Field Dressing Station
and associated Green Mountain Citizens

SEPTEMBER 2010

"I have heard of 'the dead lying in heaps', but never saw it till this battle. Whole ranks fell together."

~Captain Emory Upton, 2nd U.S. Artillery, at Antietam

Hello CVHR!

Hope everyone is getting geared up and looking forward to our Battle of Shelburne Crossroads! Remember.... Every little thing you do, helps! Just a quick note to let everyone know that annual meeting has been changed from January to December 11, at the Ilsley Library. Be sure to mark your calendar!

One of our own.. Can you recognize who?



Massena





Upper Canada Village





Battle for Shelburne Crossroads Sept. 10-12

~Jim Buell
Jim.Buell@uvm.edu

Shelburne Crossroads Planning meeting – 6:30 September 7 at the Shelburne Fire station

(Can't make the meeting but still want to contribute? Let Jim know through email!)

What: Shelburne Crossroads (annual CVHRI living history presentation)

Where: Shelburne, Vermont (we are talking with Shelburne Farms, at a minimum we have Tom Cabot's property, so pretty much the same location, the intersection (crossroad) of Bay and Harbor Rd's.

When: Friday – Sunday, September 10-12, 2010

*Why: Because we love this stuff! *

Please start thinking about the event and the part you have played in the past. If you can pitch in and help Josh and Jim by taking on the task that you normally have done, that would be great.

Many hands make light work. If you can volunteer to take on other tasks, or step up to the plate for the first time – we welcome that as well.

Thanks...

Josh and Jim

Call for Volunteers: Help is needed at the School Field Days at

Shelburne Crossroads for the primary stations, as well as hands to guide the schools., help set up, and providing the background camp life. What may seem like a little thing may end up being a huge help! Please contact Mike Frisbie 4frisbies@comcast.net

Schedule of Events

Saturday

- 9:00 - Camps open to the public
- On going – camp life, life of a Civil War soldier, drill, sutlers (1860's traveling stores)
- 10:00 Cavalry demonstration
- 11:00 – Artillery demonstration
- 1:00 – Mail call
- 2:00 – Battle reenactment
- 3:30 - US Christian Commission (writing letters for wounded soldiers, talking to the soldiers, etc)
- 4:30 – Burial service for a deceased soldier
- 5:00 – Camps close

Sunday

- 9:00 – Camps open to the public
- On going – camp life, life of a Civil War soldier, drill, sutlers (1860's traveling stores)
- 9:30 – Period church service
- 11:00 – Cavalry demonstration
- 11:30 – Artillery demonstration
- 1:00 – Battle reenactment

3:00 – Camps close

The World's Fair – Tunbridge, VT – September 16th – 19th

~ John Croft

This is a call for volunteers for the upcoming World's Fair, also known as the Tunbridge Fair, to be held Thursday September 16th through Sunday September 19th. This event is 4 days and the small encampment of the CVHR on Antique Hill has a constant flow of people, literally in the thousands. Thursday is Agricultural Education Day and many, many school children come, providing a great chance for the CVHR to provide insight to Vermont's role in the Civil War, and the life of men & women during the war through living history. There can't be enough said, but the Tunbridge World's Fair is an institution and there are some incredible sights and sounds to be had at the Fair. From Al meeting a gentleman who was shot in the arm with a 58 caliber Springfield, to folks with

amazing items found in their attics, and the incredible collection of living historians on Antique Hill. To get a sense of the Fair, you can check out the official web site at <http://www.tunbridgefair.com/> or a great video made by Seven Days last year at <http://www.7dvt.com/2009tunbridge-worlds-fair>. There is a need to a dozen plus volunteers to cover the 4 days, from a few hours to a few days, any time at the Fair is well worth it. Please contact the 1st Sgt. Croft at cvhri@comcast.net or via telephone at (802) 879-3490 to be added to the Roster, providing times of arrival and departure, as he will have tickets and parking passes. The 1st Sgt. can also be contacted in person at the encampment at Shelburne Crossroads.

Tupper Lake, New York ~ September 17-19

~ Pete Gilbert

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Civil War Enrichment Days will once again occur on September 17-19 at L.P. Quinn Elementary School in Tupper Lake, NY. This event will be a look at the past, (1860's), during the most turbulent years in American history. Both Union and Confederate re-enactors, military and civilian will be present. Weekend events include a mini museum, Military and Civilian demonstrations, skirmishes on Saturday and Sunday, and ad lib skits. For more information go to www.tlcwed.org.

Green Mountain Council's Fall Camporee ~ Oct 2

~ John Croft

vtcrofts@comcast.net

We have been invited to participate again at the Green Mountain Council's Fall Camporee to be held at Mount Norris Scout Reservation in Eden, VT on Saturday October 2nd. We were well received at the last statewide gathering of the Boy Scouts.

The request is to have an encampment, firing demonstrations, talks on life as a soldier and the other history "up close & personal" that we do. I would like to have 4 or more of our members to showcase what we do. I realize this date conflicts with an event in Dover that same weekend.

CVHRI 2nd VT Calendar 2010

September:

Sep 7: Monthly drill / meeting - Shelburne Firehouse

Sep 10-12 Or 17-19 Battle of Shelburne Crossroads (**Our premier**

event!)**

Sep. 16-19: Tunbridge World's Fair

September 17-19 Tupper Lake, New York (Medical)

October:

Oct 1-3: Living History, Dover, Vt

Oct 2: Green Mountain Council's Fall Camporee, Mount Norris Scout Reservation
Eden, VT

Oct 5: Monthly drill at Cpl Hendee's in Starksboro

Oct 16-17: Cedar Creek 146th Anniversary (cavalry)

November:

Nov 6: Boy Scout Veterans Day Parade - St. Albans, VT

Nov 20: Remembrance Day & Illumnata, Gettysburg, PA

December:

Dec - TBA Executive Board Planning Meeting

Dec 11 - CVHR Annual Business Meeting Ilsley Library, Middlebury, VT 9:00 a.m.

The Rebel Yell

~ Lt Steven Smith, 2nd Mississippi

The Shot Not Heard Around The World

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War. Consequently, tributes will mark the event with the accepted belief that the first shots of the Civil War were fired by southern militia troops at Fort Sumner in Charleston, South Carolina. However, a deeper look in the history books will reveal this was not the case.

The story begins with the creation of the Citadel in Charleston, and someone other than John Brown who advocated a slave insurrection. His name was Denmark Vesey who was a freed black man who won his freedom in a city lottery. His plan was to capture a local arsenal and then arm slaves across the South

Carolina low country, but before he could carry out his plan he was betrayed by one of his men. Vesey, along with thirty-four of his followers were sent to the gallows. All of this happened in 1822 and no doubt probably inspired Brown in his planning years later.

The event also motivated the town folk in Charleston to erect a fort and arsenal to protect against any other future actions such as this. This fort became known as the Citadel and later the famous modern campus, and it is here that the actual first shots of the Civil War were fired.

After South Carolina seceded, Federal troops stationed around the city pulled back and consolidated their position at Fort Sumter. Immediately following this action Charleston militia groups including cadets from the Citadel posted themselves on beaches and islands surrounding the fort.

A few weeks later, in January 1861, a Southern sympathizer in New York learned that a steamer, *Star of the West*, left Brooklyn with supplies for the Sumter garrison. This sympathizer telegraphed the message to Charleston and indicated that the steamer would arrive on January 9th. The alarm was posted and at dawn on the 9th Cadet George Haynesworth and three other classmates, while manning a small battery, fired the first shot across the steamer's bow. Other guns joined with three shots hitting the steamer's side. The captain turned around, and that was it.

This, of course, is the romantic view. The truth is a little more stranger still because the cadets did not so much arrive at their local battery directly as a result of the telegraphed message, but rather after a call for volunteers to man the battery instead of taking exams in calculus and English literature. Their adventure turned into misery with heavy rains, and the conditions were buggy, cold, and dull. When the Yankee ship appeared they fired the gun almost as a jest to break up the monotony. After all they were all only 15-16 years old.

None of the cadets enjoyed any fame from their actions. Three died in the war, and another survived until the surrender. Today, the event is recognized by the Citadel by awarding the best drilled cadet a medal named, The Star of the West Medal. The incident is also part of "knob knowledge" which is the rote that all first year cadets (knobs) are required to memorize and recite when demanded by upper classmen.

The Medicine Chest

~Dan Celik

Surgery During the Civil War

Surgery was primitive and crude during the Civil War and had changed very little from the colonial period. Most of the surgery was done in the field hospitals during and after the battles. Upon arrival, the wounded were separated into three classification groups consisting of minor, mortal, and severe wounds. Patients with cuts, scrapes, and graze wounds were considered minor. Wounds sustained to the abdomen or head were considered mortal because the surgeons lacked the knowledge and time to treat them.

Soldiers that were mortally wounded were led to a place known as the *dying tree*, due to the fact that these patients were kept under shade trees. The dying soldiers would usually be kept away from the survivors to keep morale up and conserve the precious medical staff. These mortally wounded soldiers received comfort and medication to counteract shock until they succumbed to their irreparable wounds.

Wounds sustained to the limbs were considered severe and therefore, given the highest priority. The surgeons believed they had the best chance of success on a patient with an amputation because they could save life over limb. There were hardly enough surgeons in the armies to take care of the mass casualties that resulted from a battle. The most efficient thing the surgeons could do was to amputate and move on to the next patient. The wounded soldier was routinely put on a table which was often a door torn from its hinges and supported by barrels, wooden horses, or church pews.

It was not uncommon for surgeons to have worked for two to three days without rest. Surgeon William Watson wrote, “. . . I performed fourteen amputations without leaving the table. I do not exaggerate when I say I have performed at the least calculation fifty amputations.” In some cases, the knife had to be physically pried from the surgeon’s hand. Surgeon Melvin Hyde of the 2nd Vermont Volunteer Regiment wrote, “I stood knife in hand at the operating table from four o’clock in the afternoon till eight o’clock next morning.”

The surgeon had the choice of three surgical procedures which included, the oval, circular, and flap technique all of which were utilized during the war. Six surgeons out of ten preferred the flap technique because of its ease and quickness. Many of the amputations were done because it was the quickest and most efficient thing to do. Three out of four operations were amputations of which 75 percent were successful.

As soon as the patient was “surgically asleep” the wound was deprived of blood. The operating surgeon preferred the hands of a competent assistant applied to pressure points rather than a tourniquet. The surgeon started the flap procedure by incising just above the actual wound. A large eight to ten inch, double-edged catlin knife was used to make the initial incisions. The flaps of skin were retracted and the muscle tissue was incised. The major arteries and veins were ligated with a small surgical needle or cauterized with a hot piece of iron. Excess tissue was scraped away and the bone cut with a small, ten-inch surgical saw. After the bleeding was stopped or slowed, a bone rongeur and file was used to snip, smooth, and round the bone. The flaps were turned in on each other and sutured with silk thread.

Silk suture was often limited in the south due to the Union blockade of imports. The Confederate surgeons resorted to using boiled horse hair for their sutures. They noticed that patients who had received the application of the horse hair sutures were recovering at a more rapid rate and with less infection. The Confederates knew nothing of sterilization and therefore, attributed the recovery to the horse. Sadly, due to lack of supplies, the same bandage was often reapplied to the wound therefore, resulting in the contraction of infection.

After each operation the surgeons rinsed their bloody knives in a pan of water, if available, wiped the knives on their aprons, and started on the next patient. From that practice infection was unknowingly spread from patient to patient. The mortality rate for primary amputation, which was within the first 24 hours, was 28 percent. If the surgery

were delayed, the rate rose to 52 percent.

Surgeon Daniel M. Holt of the 121st New York Volunteer Regiment describes a typical scene: “Every house, for miles around, is a hospital and I have seen arms, legs, feet and hands lying in piles rotting in the blazing heat of the Southern sky unburied and uncared for, and still the knife went steadily in its work adding to the putrid mess.”

The Civilian Side

~Sue Brown

Mid 19th Century America ~ Individuals

Many Americans today believe themselves to be basically good. Americans of the 1860's would probably disagree. One key characteristic of the people of the 1860's was an adherence to “strict individual ethics”, meaning most people lived their daily lives in confrontation with good and evil. From birth, mid 19th century people were bombarded with moral teaching. (Entertainment was a secondary goal.) Another attitude shared by most mid 19th century Americans was the tendency to set very long term goals and to live life with those goals in mind. Religions emphasized the afterlife, and many people lived their lives with a view to their eternal future in mind. For example, people today value good health, and those who wish to discourage the use of alcohol and tobacco argue they lead to diseases. In the mid-19th century, the people argued these vices were evil and led down the path to hell.

God and Satan were everywhere. In the 1860's, it was common to credit both good and bad events to divine intervention. In modern times, we use lawsuits to determine when doctors are not sufficiently skilled to do their jobs. In the 1860's, people credited God with the success or failure of medical treatments, thinking even a bad doctor could bring good health if God willed it.

During the Civil War, when soldiers survived fierce battles, they gave thanks to God for their safety and not to their own skill because it was the will of God.

Boots and Saddles!

A.A.R by Adj. Robin Severy

Six from 1st Vermont Cavalry, along with troopers of the 6th Ohio and 9th New York, converged upon the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumford, NY on July 16 to confront the rebel forces reportedly in the area. 4 Vermonters filed out in 1st company as the entire 2nd rank (Troopers R. Severy, Geoff Smith, J. Audet, H. Korda). Trooper A. Riley served as flag carrier. To the delight of all, the 1st Vermont brought their entire field kitchen staff, Mama K. After arising early and eating well from the Genesee supplies, it was time for boots and saddles where we drilled in the Great Meadow under Lt. Vance. We practiced formations we've never done before and came back together perfectly into the starting formation! We looked great and received glowing complements from the Union General.

Rest was short-lived as rebel forces were pushing the Union out of the town. We engaged them in a mounted skirmish line; to then dismount and fight house to house on foot. The Union forces fell back eventually to the upper field where artillery was camped and a full-blown battle ensued. The Union prevailed and all was calm again in Genesee village.

It was announced that the 1st Vermont's job was finished in New York, so we retired for the night, or in some cases, went to the dance and danced the night away. That evening, Trooper Riley was discovered to be an impersonator and hence was relegated to remain in camp with the other women. Hank rested while his twin sister Hannah dressed for the evening. Odd, but though both were in camp, they were never seen together in public. So Margaret, Amber, Hannah went dancing under the escort of our Trooper Geoff and Hondo of Ohio.

Maybe it was in the water, but on Sunday morning we all arose attired in grey uniforms in the 20th Va. Cavalry! After another fine display of cavalry drilling, we were sent to the town square where we passed our Rebel compatriots encouraging us with a spine-tingling Rebel yell. The Confederacy was taking casualties. Trooper Jay Audet took a round to the chin and had to be treated at the Field Hospital by our Sgt . (In reality, a percussion cap sliver nicked her chin resulting in lots of real blood all over her chin, neck and shirt). The realities of war were evident when the Rebel cavalry departed from the square with riderless horses in tow!

Hank Korda appeared to be mortally wounded and was returned to camp draped across the saddle. Civilians were given another dose of reality of war. A proper burial was to be given until Hank was revived while being pulled out of the saddle and he let out a high pitched Rebel squeal. Troopers Geoff and Robin were both gallant fighters, where carbine barrels overheated and ammunition ran out.

Genesee Country Village and Museum is a wonderful place for us to have been called to defend and would be a great place for people to vacation to in the 21st century.



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or email pvt_dirty@yahoo.com A phone call would be best !!!

Did You Know?

Antietam was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with about 23,000 casualties. It was a two to one battle with Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia having approximately 45,00 troops to Union Army Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's 90,000 troops. General Lee's battle plans were known in advance. Two Union soldiers (Corporal Barton W. Mitchell and First Sergeant John M. Bloss of the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry) discovered a mislaid copy of Lee's detailed battle plans-Special Order 191-wrapped around three cigars. McClellan delayed acting on this knowledge 18 hours, thus losing the opportunity laid at his feet. McClellan was a poor leader during this battle, issuing isolated commands to each unit, causing chaos during the execution of said plans. The battle began at 5:30 AM (Dawn) on September 17, 1862 and lasted until 5:30 PM that day. The Union had 12,401 casualties with 2,108 dead. Confederate casualties were 10,318 with 1,546 dead. (36 casualties occurred **every minute** for twelve hours.)

